

R E M A R K S

This application presented 48 original claims. In response to Restriction Requirement I mailed 05/15/2000 (Group I: Claims 1-39; Group II; Claims 40-47; Group III; Claim 48) Group I was elected, thus making Claims 40-48 non-elected (*i.e.*, withdrawn). In response to Restriction Requirement II mailed 03/27/2001 (Group I: Claims 1-19, 28 & 29; Group II: Claims 30, 32, 33, 36, 37 & 39; Group III: Claims 31, 34, 35 & 38) Group II was elected, thus making Claims 1-19, 28 & 29 and Claims 31, 34, 35 & 38 non-elected (*i.e.*, withdrawn). In a subsequent Office Action, Claims 49 - 56 were added. Claim 31 was, apparently, retained in error by both the Applicants and the Examiner. The Applicants now offer to properly withdraw Claim 31 (*supra*). However, the Examiner is reminded that due to prosecution of Claim 31, it is by estoppel, part of the pending application.

Consequently, if the Examiner assents to allowing Claim 31 to remain, Claims 30-31, 36-37 and 49-56 were pending before Office Action mailed November 13, 2003. In this Office Action response, Claim 57 was added, and Claims 51, 52, 55, & 56 were canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this response into the record Claims 30, 31, 36, 37, 49, 50, 53, 54, and 57 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner is requested to note that non-elected claims are now identified as "Withdrawn" with the claim text in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c). Further, the Applicants have replaced: i) "Presently Canceled" and "Previously Canceled" with "Canceled" or "Withdrawn", as appropriate; ii) "Currently Added" with "New"; and iii) "Presently Amended" with "Currently Amended".

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that the modification to the claim amendment Attachment set forth above meet the Examiner's objections, and, therefore, request that the grounds for objection be withdrawn. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 617-984-0616.

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